

## CURRENT COMMENT.

A MEMBER of the Committee on Foreign Relations recently said that although some of the nominees in the diplomatic corps were objected to he thought they would all be confirmed.

A BERLIN correspondent says that a proposition has been made that the German Government be divided between the United States, Germany and England, and it is greatly favored in commercial circles.

WHILE Stephen A. Douglas, son of the famous Illinois statesman, was delivering a lecture the other night, at Chicago, the box office receipts were attached on an alleged board bill against him, for one hundred and fifty dollars.

M. DELESSEPS stated at a meeting in Paris of the promoters of a North African inland sea that Captain Landas had gone to survey the Tunisian oasis. On M. Delesseps' return to Paris from Panama in April next a company will be formed to carry out the project of creating the sea.

THE Pan Electric Telephone Company put their telephone system in operation at St. Louis the other day and gave an exhibition of its workings. It differs in several respects from other telephones and includes a plan by which communication may be had by anybody by paying a toll of a nickel.

THE ceremony of blessing the Neva River was performed at St. Petersburg on the 18th of January with all the gorgeous display of former years. The Czar and Czarina participated and showed their confidence in the people by appearing amid the great crowd without special military escort.

A PARTY of hunters who were recently in the Rocky Mountains have returned to Bismarck, D. T. They report that in many of the valleys the snow is over twenty-five feet deep, and trappers and hunters predict heavy floods in the spring, and an immense June rise in the Missouri when the snows melt.

MR. SHOFER, American Consul at the English Potteries, in an interview recently expressed his belief that the decrease in the British exports of pottery was due to the depression in the pottery trade in America as much as to the high tariff. He added that the pottery market in America was gutted by purchasers from England in 1883, previous to the raising of the tariff.

IT is understood that the representatives of the Pennsylvania, Baltimore & Ohio, Lake Shore, Lake Erie, New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio and Tuscarawas Valley roads, who were in session at Pittsburgh, Pa., recently, with reference to an equitable distribution of iron ore and coke, agreed to hereafter refuse passes on account of freight, with one exception—stock-dealers who come in with their cattle will get a return pass home—and no coke, coal, iron ore manufacturers—in short, no freight shippers will this year get passes.

ADVISES from Washington state that the Interior Department has rendered a decision that hot-water privileges for bath houses outside of the Hot Springs, (Ark.) reservation can not be granted. The decision, it was reported, would be a disappointment to a large number at Hot Springs. There was an almost general desire for the establishment of bathing establishments in different parts of the city outside of the Government reservation, upon which most of the bath houses are now located. The Superintendent of the reservation, General C. W. Field, in his report to the Secretary of the Interior, recommended granting water privileges to two bath houses south of the reservation.

THE following strange story is told by Henry J. Tolbert, an electrician of Reading, Pa.: The City of Reading is furnished a portion of its light by a company which produces the electric current by means of the Brush machines. Mr. Tolbert says that he visited the plant of the Reading Company, and while looking at the brushes gathering the sparks of the fluid a rat came running over the floor. To escape its human enemies it jumped directly to the floor on to one of the brushes and was thrown back to the ground. It lay motionless, apparently and certainly dead, but without even a hair turned. One of the employees was sent with a shovel to touch it up, but as soon as the shovel touched it the rat fell to dust, with a little cloud of particles rising from the place where it lay, but no vestige of hair, flesh or bones remaining.

THE River Commission report says the amount of money available after completing the work now in progress on the Missouri River is not larger than should be retained to meet emergencies, which may occur at any time, and that a general resumption of work is therefore impossible until Congress makes additional appropriations. In this connection, it says that no more than six months' work can be done on the Missouri River in each year, and that work should be begun by April 1. As the appropriation for the current fiscal year would not be available until July 1, it is recommended that fifty per cent of the amount asked for the coming fiscal year be appropriated and made immediately available. The total amount asked for the next fiscal year is \$1,325,000. The amount available on November 30, 1885, for continuing the improvement of the Missouri River was \$175,762.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Gleaned by Telegraph and Mail.

## CONGRESSIONAL.

In the Senate on the 19th Mr. Cullom, from the special committee to investigate the subject, submitted a bill to regulate interstate commerce. Mr. Bristow addressed the Senate upon the silver question. The bill was passed by a vote of 54 to 36. The House on the 20th passed a bill to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties on foreign goods, by adding thereto a schedule of duties on goods imported from the United States into the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by a vote of 100 to 40.

In the House on the 20th Mr. Morrill, from the committee on Finance, reported a resolution extending the custom house investigation ordered for the port of New York to such other ports as the committee might deem best. This was agreed to. Mr. Ingalls offered a resolution, which was agreed to, to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties on foreign goods, by adding thereto a schedule of duties on goods imported from the United States into the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by a vote of 100 to 40.

In the House on the 20th, soon after the routine business of the morning, Senator Morrill took the floor in opposition to silver coinage, and declared that the public mind was pledged to the payment of bonds in gold. The debate on this question continued until about five o'clock, when the Senate adjourned. In the House Mr. Watson, of Indiana, on behalf of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported a bill to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties on foreign goods, by adding thereto a schedule of duties on goods imported from the United States into the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by a vote of 100 to 40.

In the Senate on the 21st Senator Van Winkle introduced a bill to prevent the demonetization of American coin by certain persons in the United States. Senator Sherman then took the floor and addressed the Senate on the bill to provide for counting the electoral vote. Adjourned to Monday. In the House a number of executive communications were received. The House then resumed consideration of the bill to increase the number of members of the Supreme Court. Three members spoke strongly in its favor, after which Mr. Reagan, of Texas, opposed the measure as increasing the number of members of the Supreme Court. The Senate was not in session on the 21st.

In the House, Mr. Herbert, of Alabama, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties on foreign goods, by adding thereto a schedule of duties on goods imported from the United States into the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by a vote of 100 to 40.

The Queen's speech, at the opening of Parliament on the 21st, took a very decided position against the home-rule demands of the Irish party. Repressive measures dealing with alleged lawlessness in Ireland were indicated.

LEUTENANT GENERAL SHERIDAN appeared recently before the special Senate Committee which is considering the proposal to consolidate certain scientific bureaus of the Government, and expressed the opinion that the Weather Bureau should be taken from the control of the War Department and placed under civil law and discipline.

UNEMPLOYED and striking Hungarian coke burners were creating much alarm at Mount Pleasant and other places in Pennsylvania threatening riots.

THE House Committee on Judiciary recently devoted some time to hearing arguments by representatives of commercial bodies upon bankruptcy legislation. The tenor of the arguments was in favor of the enactment of a general bankruptcy law.

A special from Matamoros, Mex., says: It is stated that a prominent business house has received notice from London that the Mexican National Construction Company has borrowed money from Matthewson & Co., of London, to continue the construction of that road and that work will be resumed inside of three months.

A PARTY of nine cowboys raided the town of Canyon, Col., on the 20th. Deputy Sheriff Cooke, with a posse, drove the ruffians from the town and succeeded in killing four of them.

THE National Board of Trade met in convention at Washington on the 20th. The French flag has been hoisted over Sumatra, one of the Sunda Islands, which has hitherto been under Dutch protection.

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THE Ohio Miners' Association has authorized a strike on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad between Cambridge and Ohio. Arbitration was favored as a means of settling disputes.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Jacksonville, Fla., respecting the severe weather, says: "On the morning of the 12th of January the thermometer registered 15.6 deg., the lowest temperature ever recorded, except in January, 1835, the mercury fell to 11 deg. The injury to the present crop of oranges can not yet be estimated, but the probability is that it will be between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000."

CHINESE at Victoria, B. C., were reported in terrible destitution. Soup kitchens were projected for their benefit.

Two exciting speeches were delivered in the Hungarian Parliament recently, one charging an official with squandering one-third of the revenue of the realm, the other stirring up the old German-Slav strife.

The striking Hungarians at Mount Pleasant in Pennsylvania had a conflict with the police on the 20th. One Hungarian was thought to be killed. Several other fights occurred and some non-strikers were said to be killed and injured. The situation was serious and troops were ordered to hold themselves in readiness.

The Edgar Thompson steel works at Pittsburgh, which resumed recently, have again closed down, the helpers and fillers refusing to accept the terms offered. Affairs are more complicated than ever and it is impossible to say what the outcome will be.

The other morning a terrible boiler explosion occurred at the distillery of Fairbanks & Duenweg, at Pecora, Ill. Frank McNellis, George Ottmerman and two others were killed and several wounded.

PHRENIOTERS who arrived at Aspen, Col., on the 21st state that twenty-seven snow slides have occurred in the past three days. A party of men and eighteen mules were thought to have perished.

A DISPATCH of the 21st from San Antonio, Tex., says: Intelligence reached here last evening from Hidalgo County that a band consisting of eight robbers crossed over from Mexico a few days ago and raided the Palomas ranch. Carlos Schnauer, the proprietor, and a clerk were both shot down. Schnauer was fatally wounded. His clerk lies in a very critical condition. The robbers got \$2,500 and a number of horses.

HOME-RETS for Ireland was considered hopeless in the present British Parliament. Neither Liberals nor Conservatives would propose it, and Parnell would have to do so if the question was to be discussed at all.

A SERIOUS state of affairs occurred in the Ohio Senate on the 22d. The Democrats withdrew on the ruling of the Chair that the Hamilton County Senators could not vote. The result was that two Senators were formed, each declaring the other revolutionary.

A DISPATCH from the City of Mexico says: Owing to the falling off in the Government receipts from all sources, due to depression in trade and to the continued depreciation of silver, the operation of the June decree for the consolidation of the debt as far as regards the payment of the interest, will probably be postponed for a year.

THE House Committee on Indian Affairs favors taking action looking to the obtaining from the Red Lake Chippewa Indians the relinquishment of their title to the reservation.

COMMISSIONER COLMAN has called the annual convention of the Mississippi Valley Sugar Growers' Association for St. Louis, February 4 and 5, and of the Dairyman's Association for the week following.

SECRETARY LANAR has decided that all appropriations made by the Arizona Legislature in excess of the sum granted by Congress are void.

THE Cuban cigarmakers employed by Ottenberg & Co., and by Jacoby & Co., of New York, went out on strike on the 23d. The strike was very general, involving thousands.

A JAILBROKER was recently granted to Rev. B. F. Jenkins, who was serving a life sentence for the murder of Rev. J. Lane Borden, in Mansfield, La., three years ago. Jenkins, a student, charged that Borden, President of the College, was intimate with one of the lady students and shot him for it. Jenkins is now dying of consumption, and for that reason was pardoned by the Governor.

BROWN BROS. & Co., of New York, shipped \$300,000 of gold bars to Europe on the 23d.

MOCKITAR PASHA, Turkish Commissioner in Egypt, has proposed that a Turkish-Egyptian army be organized for the defense of Egypt in place of the English army now in the country, as the latter army is too costly a burden for Egypt in view of her limited resources.

DISCOUNT was taken in London during the week ended January 23 at 1 1/2 for three months and from 3/4 for short. On the Stock Exchange business was languid and drooping. The Irish question, trade prospects and the war outlook in the East combined to unsettle business. American railway securities were depressed throughout, closing at the lowest prices of the week under the reports of snow storms sweeping the track.

IT was reported that an agreement had been arrived at by the leaders of both parties providing for the admission of Dakota, Montana and Washington Territories. The plan will be carried out in a few weeks.

ELKES bodies of the victims of the Newburg, W. Va., colliery explosion were recovered on the 24th.

GREENE has made an energetic protest against the decision of the Powers to disarm.

PARSELL has issued a circular to the Nationalist electors of Albany requesting them to vote for the Liberal candidate in the Parliamentary election to fill the vacancy caused by death of Mr. John McCune, Liberal.

CLEARING house returns for week ended January 23 showed an increase in New York of 32.5 compared with the corresponding week of last year. The other cities of the country also exhibited fair increases.

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Signor Macini, Minister of Finance, announced a deficit in the current budget of 50,000,000 francs. The deficiency is due to the general depression caused by the cholera epidemic and the cost of maintaining the Massowah expedition.

FIVE aged persons lost their lives the other night by a fire at the county poor house near Jackson, Mich. The building was destroyed.

CONGRESSMAN RANKIN, of Wisconsin, died at Washington, of Bright's disease, on the 21st. He was born in New Jersey in 1833.

## KANSAS STATE NEWS.

## Kansas Legislature.

THE Legislature met in special session at Topeka on the 19th. In the Senate Joel Moody, of Linn, was elected Assistant Secretary, vice Shaffer, deceased. Messrs. Morris, of Leavenworth, was elected Enrolling Clerk. The House on the 20th passed a bill to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties on foreign goods, by adding thereto a schedule of duties on goods imported from the United States into the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by a vote of 100 to 40.

In the Senate, on the 20th, Mr. Kelley, of McPherson, introduced a concurrent resolution asking that the Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their influence toward securing the establishment of not less than two military posts on the southwestern border for protection against Indian depredations. Forty-four bills were introduced. In the House, on the 20th, a resolution was passed favoring the pensioning of all soldiers who served in the Mexican war. The improvement of Fort Riley was adopted. The most important bill introduced was by Mr. Clark, of Leavenworth, to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties on foreign goods, by adding thereto a schedule of duties on goods imported from the United States into the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by a vote of 100 to 40.

WHEN the Senate met on the 21st a petition for woman suffrage was presented. The Senate concurrent resolution, asking for military posts on the southwestern border of the State, was adopted. After other routine business and the introduction of a number of new bills were introduced. In the House, among the bills introduced was one to make May 30 a legal holiday. A large number of new bills were introduced. In the House, among the bills introduced was one to make May 30 a legal holiday. A large number of new bills were introduced.

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## TWO SENATES.

## A Ruling of the Chair Causes a Rupture of the Ohio Senate.

COLUMBUS, O., January 23.—The Committee on Privileges and Elections made a report in the Senate yesterday asking further authority to make the investigation and a minority of the committee to be relieved from further consideration of the contest cases, and that the matter be brought back to the Senate. On the adoption of the minority report and all other motions relating thereto, the Chair held that the four Hamilton County members could not vote. The Democrats refused to vote, and the Chair declared the report adopted by the seven Republican votes which he ruled to be the majority. Under his ruling the feeling grew intense, and while no riotous scenes and appeals were being made, the Lieutenant Governor put the motion and declared the Senate recessed. President pro tempore Neil took the Chair, and the Senate adjourned. In the House, on the 23d, a resolution was passed favoring the pensioning of all soldiers who served in the Mexican war. The improvement of Fort Riley was adopted. The most important bill introduced was by Mr. Clark, of Leavenworth, to amend the act of March 3, 1879, relating to the duties on foreign goods, by adding thereto a schedule of duties on goods imported from the United States into the District of Columbia. The bill was passed by a vote of 100 to 40.

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